

WISCONSIN WILDCARDS



NATIVE SPECIES



COMMON LOON

Gavia immer

IDENTIFICATION The common loon measures nearly 3 feet and has a 5-foot wingspan. It is gray and white until four years of age, when it grows the elegant black and white breeding plumage for which it is famous.

VOCALIZATION Loons have four calls. The laugh-like tremolo is an alarm call, while the hoot reassures. The males' high-pitched yodel is territorial; the mournful wail is a call to other loons.

HABITS Loons are expert divers, feeding on fish and aquatic invertebrates. They nest along the water's edge and rear one or two chicks each summer.

CONSERVATION Protect natural shorelines, essential for suitable nesting habitat, and use lead-free fishing tackle like bismuth sinkers to reduce fatal lead poisoning.

For information about Loonwatch:

<http://www.northland.edu/soei/loonwatch.asp>

Photo: Ginger Gummy/Daniel
Poleschook, Jr.

[http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/
fhp/fish/kidsparents/anglereducation/
workshopschedule.shtml](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/fhp/fish/kidsparents/anglereducation/workshopschedule.shtml)

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